

CLAIMS

1 1-21. (canceled)

1 22. (currently amended) A unitary portable data storage device which can be
2 directly plugged into a universal serial bus (USB) socket of a computer and which is
3 operative to function as an alternative to a magnetic disk or CD, and which is capable of
4 storing software for installation to the computer or of receiving and storing user's data
5 present in the computer, the unitary portable data storage device comprising:
6 a USB plug integrated into the unitary portable data storage device without an
7 intervening cable capable of coupling the unitary portable data storage device directly to a
8 USB socket on a computer;
9 a single interface, said interface allowing the unitary portable data storage device to
10 communicate via the USB protocol and being coupled to the USB plug;
11 ~~a memory controller; and~~
12 a non-volatile solid-state memory, said memory being non-removable from the
13 unitary portable data storage device and having sufficient capacity to enable the unitary
14 portable data storage device to serve as an alternative to a magnetic disk or CD; and
15 a memory controller, the memory controller being coupled between the interface and
16 the memory to control the flow of data between the memory and the USB plug in a manner to
17 enable the unitary portable data storage device to serve as an alternative to a magnetic disk or
18 CD.

1 23. (currently amended) A unitary portable data storage device according to claim
2 22, wherein the memory controller ~~and the non-volatile solid-state memory are~~ is non-
3 removable from the unitary portable data storage device.

1 24. (previously presented) A unitary portable data storage device according to
2 claim 22, wherein the non-volatile solid-state memory is a flash memory.

1 25. (previously presented) A unitary portable data storage device according to
2 claim 22, further comprising a manually operated switch movable between a first position in
3 which writing of data to the memory is enabled, and a second position in which writing of
4 data to the memory is prevented.

1 26. (previously presented) A unitary portable data storage device according to
2 claim 22, wherein the memory controller comprises a micro-controller.

1 27. (previously presented) A unitary portable data storage device according to
2 claim 26, wherein the micro-controller includes a read-only memory which stores a program
3 to control the operation of the micro-controller.

1 28. (previously presented) A unitary portable data storage device according to
2 claim 22, wherein the unitary portable data storage device is sufficiently compact to
3 maximize portability.

1 29. ^{*new*}~~(previously presented)~~ A unitary portable data storage device according to
2 claim 22, wherein the non-volatile solid-state memory is divided into a plurality of zones,
3 each of said plurality of zones requiring a unique password for access.